

Serial No. 09/777,139
Reply to Final Office Action of January 5, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1, 3-17, and 19-32 were pending in the application.

Claims 28-32 are cancelled by this Amendment.

New claims 37-41 are added to present system claims in means plus function language with functional limitations similar to those of allowed method claims 17 and 21-24. No new matter is added by these new claims, and Applicants respectfully request that these amendments to be entered even though this Amendment is in response to a final Office Action because they are believed only to present previously allowed subject matter in a means plus function form so as to provide the Applicants full protection of their invention.

After entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 3-17, and 19-27, and 37-41 remain for consideration by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action of January 5, 2006, claims 1, 3-17, and 19-27 were allowed by the Examiner.

Independent claim 37 is added to present the allowed method claim 17 in means-plus-function form. Claim 38 depends from claim 37 and presents the limitations of allowed dependent claim 21 in means-plus-function form. Hence, claims 37 and 38 are also believed to be allowable (i.e., for the reasons for allowing claims 17 and 21).

Independent claims 39 presents the limitations of method claim 22 in a system claim with means-plus-function language. Claims 40 and 41 present limitations similar to those of allowed dependent claims 23 and 24. As a result, Applicants believe claims 39-41 are in condition for allowance.

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Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the final Office Action, the rejection of claims 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. Publ. No. 2002/0035667 ("Bruning") was maintained. Claims 28-32 are cancelled by this Amendment.

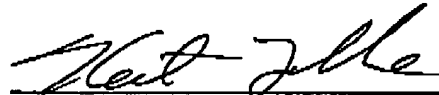
Conclusions

Based on the above remarks, it is requested that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

No fee is believed due with this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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